

2014 Research Forum – Saturday, March 8 HealthPartners in Bloomington

Title of Research Caring for Patients Outside the Clinic: A Toolkit for Improving Quality and Efficiency

Presenter Kasey Kapella, MD. Resident, University of MN - Methodist

Other Authors/Investigators Amber Scaletta, MD

Abstract

Objective or Hypothesis The number of patients who require skilled nursing care either at home or in long term care facilities will likely increase in the coming years. Unfortunately, clinicians who care for these patients often lack standard medical equipment and supplies. In response to this need we compiled a kit containing medical supplies based on survey results from geriatric clinicians. The primary goal of this study was to qualitatively assess the utility of such toolkits.

Population Medical Practitioners who provide care in Long Term Care facilities, Assisted Living Facilities and/or patient homes.

Methods The medical toolkits were given to three practicing geriatricians. The clinicians were instructed to use the toolkits at their discretion and make observations about its use. Participants then underwent a semi-structured interview regarding their experiences using the toolkit.

Main Results After qualitative analysis of participant feedback, we identified several unifying themes. Using the toolkit allowed clinicians to provide more thorough care for their patients and clinicians endorsed a sense of improved ability to use their clinical time more efficiently. Several items were used consistently, however, patterns of toolkit use varied widely between participants.

Conclusions We concluded that an individualized toolkit of medical supplies is useful in aiding clinicians caring for patients in long term care facilities and at home. It helps clinicians provide higher quality patient care and use their time more efficiently.

IRB Exemption ☒ **HIPAA Compliance** ☒ **Mentor(s)** Don Pine, MD Teresa Quinn, MD

Funding Sources MAFP and the Park Nicollet Foundation